



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND MAN INDICTED IN '99 DOUBLE HOMICIDE, JOINS DEFENDANTS CHARGED IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a second defendant has been indicted for a double homicide that occurred in Joplin in 1999, as well as for his role in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Jasper County.

Israel D. Ward, 29, address unknown, was charged in four counts of the 21-count second superseding indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield on September 12, 2002. That indictment was unsealed and made public today following **Ward's** arrest in Tulsa, Oklahoma on September 17, 2002. **Ward** is scheduled to appear in federal court in Tulsa today.

The second superseding indictment, Graves said, charges **Ward** as a co-defendant in the murders of Paris Harbin and Chandy Bresee-Plumb. Two separate counts of the 21-count federal indictment charge **Ward** with the murders of the Joplin man and woman on or about December 13, 1999. Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Ward** murdered Paris Harbin, and Count Seven alleges that **Ward** murdered Chandy Bresee-Plumb. Both murders are alleged to have been willful, deliberate, malicious, premeditated and committed in the perpetration of a drug trafficking crime. Counts Six and Seven also allege that **Ward** used a firearm in the commission of a drug trafficking crime.

In addition to the two counts for those murders, Graves said, **Ward** has also been charged with two additional counts in relation to a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Ward** conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of crack

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cocaine in Jasper County between January 1999 and December 2000. Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Ward** managed a residence at 115 Cleveland in Joplin, Mo., which was made available to store crack cocaine.

Graves explained that this second superseding indictment replaces the original grand jury indictment that was returned on May 2, 2002, as well as a superseding indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on June 10, 2002.

The second superseding indictment that was unsealed today, Graves said, also includes an additional charge against **Thomas D. Smith**, also known as "Mad Dog," 29, a Joplin area resident. **Smith** was charged with one count of being a felon and an unlawful drug user in possession of a firearm in the second superseding indictment. **Smith** is also charged with the murders of Paris Harbin and Chandy Bresee-Plumb, Graves said, as well as two counts related to a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

Also charged in the federal indictment are **Brian L. McDaniel**, also known as "Barrion," 27, who is in the custody of the United States Marshals Office in the Northern District of Oklahoma; **Ernesto V. Bell**, also known as "Stone," 27, who is in state custody at Bolivar County, Mississippi; **Larry D. Saddler**, also known as "Laughin' Larry," 44, of Carterville, Mo.; and **Justin L. Triplett**, 27, of Joplin, Mo.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all six of the defendants conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in Jasper County, from as early as January, 1999 to December, 2000. **Ward's** co-defendants were also charged on various counts related to conspiring and distributing crack cocaine in Jasper County. Those charges remain the same as in the original indictment.

U.S. Attorney Graves cautioned that all of the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and are not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Joplin Police Department, the Jasper County Drug Task Force, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, the Joplin Area Major Case Squad, the Tulsa Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Jasper County Sheriff's Department, the Newton County Sheriff's Department, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), and the Springfield Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
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